

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03599 01 OF 02 171054Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 AF-06 ARA-06 EB-07 /099 W

----- 067966

R 170830Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3510

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 3599

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, SREF, AG, MO, SS, MR

1. SUMMARY: ALGERIANS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO CAPTURE WORLD'S ATTENTION WITH STORIES OF MOROCCAN ATROCITIES IN SAHARA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME ECHOING OF ALGERIAN THEMES IN SPANISH AND FRENCH PRESS. ALGERIANS WILL PROBABLY NEED CONTINUING POLISARIO ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THOSE REPORTED IN SOUTHERN PART OF COLONY, IF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IS TO BE SUSTAINED. WHETHER POLISARIO EQUAL TO THIS TASK REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: PRESS DECEMBER 16 FEATURES ALLEGED SUCCESSES OF POLISARIO, PARTICULARLY IN FIGHTING MAURITANIANS:

A. MAURITANIAN FRONT: PRESS CLAIMS THAT MAURITANIAN FORCES CHECKED AT LA GUERA, DAKHLA (VILLA CISNEROS) AND TICHLA, DESPITE MASSIVE MOROCCAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN BOTH ARMS AND PERSONNEL. ACCORDING TO REPORT MAURITANIANS TRIED TO CAPTURE LA GUERA BY SEA, USING COASTAL PATROL VESSEL NAMED "IDINI". MAURITANIAN DEATHS PUT AT 39 AT TICHLA AND 27 AT LA GUERA. MAURITANIANS ORDERED FIGHTING, WHICH SAID TO HAVE BEEN INTENSE ON DECEMBER 10, FOLLOWING VISIT BY COLONEL DLIMI TO MAURITANIA DECEMBER 3.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ALGIER 03599 01 OF 02 171054Z

B. SABOTAGE: PRESS SAYS POLISARIO SUCCEEDED IN SABOTAGING

MAURITANIAN RAILROAD ALONG SAHARA BORDER AT POINT 150 KILOMETERS FROM NOUADHIBOU AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING. (PARIS 32705). MOVEMENT OF PHOSPHATE ORE ALONG BOU CRAA CONVEYOR BELT ALSO REPORTED INTERRUPTED FOLLOWING POLISARIO ATTACK ON BELT STATION NUMBER 9. THIS MAY BE SAME ATTACK REFERRED TO IN DECEMBER 14-15 EDITION OF LE MONDE.

C. OTHER: PRESS CLAIMS THAT POLISARIO CARRIED OUT ATTACKS IN MAURITANIAN TERRITORY AT BIR MOGHREIN AND AIN BENTILI (WHERE TWO MAURITANIANS SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED) AND AT ZAG, MESEID AND CHEBIKIYA IN MOROCCO. ON DECEMBER 10, PRESS SAYS MINES PLANTED BY POLIARIO BETWEEN TAN TAN AND TAH IN MOROCCO WERE SET OFF BY TRUCKS FULL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS.

3. MOROCCAN ATROCITIES: DECEMBER 15 BACKGROUND PRESS REPORT BY ALGERIE PRESSE SERVICE CORRESPONDENT SAID TO BE IN SMARA GIVES MOST GRAPHIC AND EXHAUSTIVE LISTING TO DATE OF ALLEGED MOROCCAN ATROCITIES IN SAHARA. FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL POINTS OF ARTICLE GIVE TONE ALGERIAN PRESS TAKING ON THIS SUBJECT:

A. 15,000 OF TOWN'S 18,000 POPULATION CHOSE TO FLEE RATHER THAN REMAIN AFTER ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN ARMY (FAR), WHICH STRUGGLING TO HOLD OUT AGAINST POLISARIO ATTACKS AND WHICH UNABLE TO MOVE FAR FROM TOWN.

B. POPULATION, ALMOST ENTIRELY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, KEPT UNDER GUARD IN TOWN SQUARE BY NIGHT AND ONLY ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR PILLAGED HOMES DURING DAY. IN MORNING, MOROCCAN OFFICERS HAVE YOUNG SAHRAOUI WOMEN ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO THEIR QUARTERS. MOROCCAN SOLDIERS FREQUENTLY STEAL CLOTHING FROM SAHRAOUI HOMES IN ORDER TO DISGUISE THEMSELVES AS SAHRAOUI TO CHEER WHEN MOROCCAN DIGNITARIES ENTER TOWN.

C. SMARANS NOW PAY HOMAGE TO MOROCCAN FLAGS AND PORTRAITS OF KING HASSAN WHICH FAR HAVE PLACED IN EACH HOME. REFUSAL TO DO SO HAD BEEN GROUND FOR INSTANT EXECUTION, AND ONE WOMAN HAD BEEN STAMPED TO DEATH BY FAR PERSONNEL WHEN SHE REFUSED TO CHEER FOR COLONEL DLIMI.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ALGIER 03599 01 OF 02 171054Z

D. FAR FORCED REFUGEES, OR PASSING NOMADS, TO RETURN TO TOWN.

3. TOTAL SAHARA REFUGEE POPULATION NOW 35,000.

F. SHALLOW GRAVES OF SAHRAOUI, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN WHO HAVE SUCCUMBED TO COLD AND FAMINE, FREQUENT SIGHT IN SMARA REGION.

4. GOA AND GOM TRADE ABUSES: PRESS DECEMBER 16 REPORTS THAT 300 MOROCCANS, WHO SAID TO BE LIVING IN IRREGULAR SITUATION IN ALGERIA, HAD BEEN EXPELLED FOUR DAYS EARLIER. GOA MAKING PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE ALGERIANS WHO IT ANTICIPATES WILL BE EXPELLED FROM OUJDA REGION SOON.

5. AMCONSUL ORAN HAS REPORTED THAT MOROCCANS IN WESTERN ALGERIA ARE BEING HARRASSED BY ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE TAKING AWAY MOROCCANS' WORK PERMITS BUT HAVE REFUSED TO ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE COUNTRY. AMCONSUL ORAN HAS ALSO LEARNED THAT SOME 50 MOROCCANS ARE IN JAIL IN ORAN. THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT MOROCCANS, TUNISIANS, AND SPANIARDS RESIDENT IN ALGIERS ARE BEING CLOSELY SURVILLED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03599 02 OF 02 171102Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 AF-06 ARA-06 EB-07 /099 W

----- 068076

R 170830Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3511

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 3599

6. POLISARIO EMISSARIES ON MOVE: PRESS DECEMBER 16 REPORTS THAT POLISARIO REP MAHJOUB MAJID ABDERRAHMAN IS IN LIMA ON LATIN AMERICAN TOUR AIMED AT DRUMMING UP SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO. SECOND MILITANT, HABIBULLAH, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SIMILAR MISSION IN AFRICA.

7. MOROCCAN-SPANISH "COLLUSION" ON PHOSPHATES: DECEMBER 16 PRESS REPORTS GOS-GOM AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH SAHARA PHOSPHATE PROCEEDS TO BE SPLIT 65-35 BETWEEN MOROCCO AND SPAIN. THIS, ARTICLE SAYS, SHOULD PERMIT

HASSAN TO FULFILL HIS OBLIGATION TO SUPPLY 10,000,000 TONS OF PHOSPHATES ANNUALLY TO US BETWEEN 1980 AND 1990, A COMMITMENT HE COULD NEVER HAVE MET WITHOUT USING SAHARAN DEPOSITS. HOWEVER, ARTICLE CONCLUDES, PLAN WILL BE THWARTED BECAUSE BOU CRAA PHOSPHATE WORKERS, WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN MONTH OFF OSTENSIBLY TO CELEBRATE MOROCCAN AND MUSLIM HOLIDAYS, WILL NEVER RETURN TO WORK. WORKERS, PIECE ASSERTS, HAVE JOINED THOSE FIGHTING MOROCCAN INVASION.

8. COMMENT: ALGERIANS OBVIOUSLY SEEKING TO CAPTURE WORLD'S ATTENTION WITH REPORT OF MOROCCAN ATROCITIES IN SAHARA. SPANISH PRESS HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO THEM IN THIS REGARD AND PIECE IN DECEMBER 14-15 LE MONDE BY PAPER'S ALGIERS CORRESPONDENT, PAUL BALTA, WILL BE AS WELL. BALTA SPENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ALGIER 03599 02 OF 02 171102Z

TIME WITH POLISARIO IN SHARA LAST MONTH, AND HIS ARTICLE REFLECTS, ALBEIT WITH MORE RESTRAINT, MANY ALGERIAN PRESS THEMES. VISIT OF UNHCR DELEGATION (ALGIERS 3853 NOTAL) TO ALGERIA SHOULD ALSO BE GOOD FOR FURTHER PROPAGANDA MILEAGE.

9. IN FINAL ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WILL NEED CONTINUED SUSTENANCE OF POLISARIO ACTIVITY ON GROUND. WHETHER GUERRILLAS WILL BE EQUAL TO TASK WHEN FAR GETS INTO HIGH GEAR IN COLONY REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

10. WHATEVER MILITARY SUCCESSES POLISARIO MAY BE HAVING, WE FIND IT HARD TO IMAGINE THAT ITS EMISSARIES CAN BE MAKING MUCH OF AN IMPACT DURING THEIR TOURS. THOSE WE HAVE SEEN ARE SHAGGY, STUDENT-AGE TYPES WHO WE DOUBT WOULD MAKE MUCH OF AN IMPRESSION ON GOVERNMENTS BEFORE WHICH THEY PLEADING THEIR CASE.PARKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, PRESS COMMENTS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER03599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750438-0563
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcxc.tel
Line Count: 208
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, SREF, PROP, MO, SS, MR, AG, F POLISARIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006